

In particular, the methods of claim 16 and intermediates of claim 17 are directed to the compounds recited in claims 1-10. Therefore, a search for Applicant's claimed compounds would necessarily include a search directed to methods of preparing the compounds and intermediates for the compounds. Accordingly, it is submitted that all the claimed methods recited in claim 16 and the intermediates of claim 17 are so closely related to the claimed compounds that all claims should be examined on the merits at this time.

In summary, the examiner has issued a restriction requirement and has required Applicant to elect claims for prosecution. Applicant has elected claims for prosecution on the merits at this time, with traverse. Should the examiner maintain his restriction requirement, at least claims 1-15 and 16(A), i.e., examiner's Group I, are to be examined on the merits at this time.

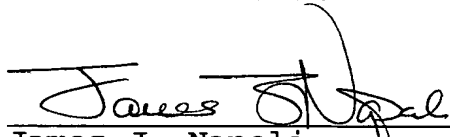
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested. An early action on the merits of all claims is solicited.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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